

**Specification Amendments**

Please amend the paragraph found at page 2, lines 13-19 of the instant application as follows:

To reduce the burden on the processor, Intelligent Input/Output (I<sub>2</sub>O) controllers have been developed. Simply stated, I<sub>2</sub>O processors off-load responsibility for storing data on the disk drives from the processor so that the processor is available to perform other functions. Examples of implementing the I<sub>2</sub>O functions are described in the Intelligent Input/Output Architecture Specification, revision 1.5, published March 1997 by the I<sub>2</sub>O Special interest Group (~~see <http://www.i2osig.org>~~).

Please amend the paragraph found at page 6, lines 9-17 of the instant application as follows:

Bus 22 may also optionally be coupled to an interface 24, which may be part of a chipset or which may be implemented by a bridge, for example, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. Also coupled to bus 22, may be an input/output (I/O) device 26, which may be a host adapter in one embodiment of the invention. I/O device 26 may be, for example, a SCSI Fibre Channel (ANSI Standard X.3230-1994-Fibre Channel Physical and Signaling Standard (FC-PH) available at <http://www.fibrechannel.com/technology/tech-frame.htm>), an Ethernet device, or a Next Generation I/O (NGIO) device (available at <http://www.clients.activate.net/telspan/ngioforum/072199.htm>).